



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

DR. HANJIN MAO | UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON - DOWNTOWN

EXPERIENTIAL PHILANTHROPY: AN INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGY

ABSTRACT:

This session introduces experiential philanthropy, a high-impact service-learning pedagogy that engages students in researching community needs, evaluating nonprofits, and making collective giving decisions. While often used in nonprofit management, the model is adaptable across disciplines. Drawing on a quasi-experimental study, the presentation compares hypothetical, internal, and external funding models, showing that civic learning outcomes are strong regardless of financial resources. Participants will gain practical strategies to implement experiential philanthropy, even in resource-constrained contexts.

THEMATIC FOCUS:

Gauging the Waters: Using research and assessment to course correct or gain deeper insight.

BIO:

Dr. Hanjin Mao is an Assistant Professor of Nonprofit Management at the University of Houston–Downtown. She is also the Program Director of the Master of Arts in Nonprofit Management. Her teaching and research focus on nonprofit management, technology adoption, civic engagement, and experiential philanthropy. She has led multiple undergraduate and graduate service-learning courses, engaging students in nonprofit organizations and communities.

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